

OPS-SC-0004

Inclement Weather Policy

Revision History				
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0	9/12/2022	R. Courtney	JC	Create std policy
2	5/21/2026	T. Carter	RG	Add hurricane related procedures
3	6/18/2026	T. Carter	NR	Make correction to formula in sec. 9.5
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1 Purpose

The purpose of this Emergency Action Plan (EAP) is to establish clear, consistent procedures for protecting all personnel, equipment, and operations from severe weather hazards, including lightning, thunderstorms, hail, sleet, high winds, heavy rain, flooding, and tornado activity. This plan outlines the responsibilities, communication methods, and required actions necessary to ensure the safety of all workers on site and to minimize risk to ongoing construction activities.

2 Scope

This EAP applies to all employees, subcontractors, visitors, and operations conducted on the worksite. It defines the required response protocols for weather related emergencies, including evacuation procedures, sheltering requirements, work stoppage criteria, and special considerations for high risk activities such as aerial operations and concrete pours. The plan also establishes expectations for weather monitoring, training, planning, and communication to ensure that all personnel understand how to respond quickly and effectively when severe weather threatens the site.

The intent of this plan is to:

- Provide clear procedures to protect all personnel during severe weather
- Provide straightforward steps for stopping, securing, and restarting work
- Ensure safe evacuation and sheltering during high-risk conditions
- Maintain control of critical operations, including aerial work and concrete pours
- Encourage proactive planning and early recognition of hazardous weather
- Support consistent communication between management, supervision, and field crews

3 Definitions

3.1 Aerial Work

- Any task performed using lifts, buckets, scaffolds, or equipment that elevates workers above ground level. Aerial work must stop when wind or lightning thresholds are reached.

3.2 Essential Personnel

- Workers are specifically required to safely complete or secure an operation during severe weather (e.g., concrete finishers during an active pour). All other personnel must evacuate or shelter.

3.3 Evacuation Location / Muster Point

- A predetermined safe area where workers gather during severe weather events for accountability and roll call.

3.4 Flash Flooding

- Rapid flooding of low-lying areas such as trenches, ditches, and excavations. These areas must be evacuated immediately when heavy rain or flooding is anticipated.

3.5 High Winds

- Wind speeds that create unsafe working conditions. Please see the Lightning & Wind Safety Clearance Charts.

3.6 Imminent Tornado Response

- An emergency life safety response initiated when a tornado is sighted or an immediate threat exists, requiring immediate protective action through sheltering, evacuation, or last resort protective measures when neither can be safely achieved.

3.7 Inclement Weather

- Any atmospheric condition that creates unsafe or potentially hazardous situations for personnel, equipment, or operations. It includes weather events that reduce visibility, increase the likelihood of injury or damage, or require work to be stopped, delayed, or modified to maintain safety.

3.8 Lightning Radius Thresholds

- Specific distances used to determine work stoppage actions:
 - 20 miles: Begin planning and preparation
 - 15 miles: Stop all aerial work
 - 10 miles: Stop all work and seek shelter

3.9 Shelter

- A designated safe location such as a hard topped vehicle with windows rolled up, a structurally sound building, or a site approved enclosed trailer.

3.10 Tornado Watch Response

- A preparedness phase initiated when tornado conditions are possible. This response focuses on planning, communication, and readiness, including identifying shelter or evacuation options and preparing for potential work interruption if conditions escalate.

3.11 Tornado Warning Response

- An action phase initiated when a Tornado Warning is issued for the worksite area, requiring immediate protective measures, including stopping work and either sheltering in a hardened shelter if safely accessible or initiating a site wide evacuation away from the storm.

3.12 Weather Monitoring Tools

- Approved applications and systems used to track weather

4 Responsibilities

4.1 Site Supervision

- Monitor weather conditions daily and ensure appropriate weather-tracking tools are used.
- Determine if work suspension, evacuation, and return-to-work authorization should be considered with operations and contractor supervision.
- Communicate severe weather alerts, warnings, and all-clear notifications to contractor supervision.
- Ensure all subcontractors understand and follow the EAP requirements.
- Allocate resources needed for emergency preparedness, including shelters, and site approved communication devices.

4.2 Site Safety Manager / Safety Personnel

- Monitor real-time weather conditions using approved applications (weather monitoring mobile application or NOAA).
- Identify hazardous weather indicators and notify management and supervision.
- Assist in coordinating evacuations, sheltering, and accountability procedures.
- Ensure all updates to the EAP are communicated and retraining is completed.
- Verify that aerial work, concrete pours, and other high-risk activities comply with weather-related stop-work thresholds.
- Conduct training, refreshers, and orientation sessions related to severe-weather procedures as needed.
- Assist in site inspection after severe weather to ensure conditions are safe before work resumes.

4.3 Subcontractor Superintendents / Foremen

- Relay weather warnings and emergency instructions to all workers immediately.
- Ensure crews understand and follow all severe weather and Emergency Action Plan (EAP) requirements in this procedure.
- Immediately stop work when weather thresholds are reached or when directed by site management.
- Ensure workers evacuate or shelter promptly according to the EAP.
- Direct workers to approved shelter locations, including vehicles, designated structures, or off-site evacuation locations as required.
- Secure loose materials, tools, and equipment when severe weather is approaching or prior to evacuation.
- Enforce stop-work requirements for lightning, high winds, heavy rain, flooding, and other hazardous conditions.
- Verify that every member of the crew is accounted for during muster and sheltering.
- Take responsibility for ensuring crews are trained on and understand all emergency and severe weather requirements.
- Notify Ampirical Construction Management or Safety if a Stop Work is initiated by subcontractor supervision.
- Ensure subcontractor management promptly communicates all severe weather information and instructions to their personnel for a timely response.

4.4 All Workers

- Follow all instructions from management, supervision, and safety personnel during severe-weather events.
- Stop work immediately when notified of lightning, high winds, hail, or other hazards.
- Proceed to designated muster points or shelter locations without delay.
- Avoid unsafe areas such as high ground, metal structures, tall trees, and water during lightning events.
- Report hazards, unsafe conditions, or missing personnel to supervision.
- Do not begin tasks that cannot be quickly stopped when signs of approaching storms are present.

4.5 Employee/Visitor

- Follows all requirements of the Inclement Weather Procedure

5 General Requirements

5.1 General

- Inclement weather can come in various forms including, but not limited to:
 - Lightning
 - High winds or gusts
 - Severe storms or heavy rain
 - Hail
 - Snow/Ice Storms
 - Tornado or hurricanes
- Weather conditions must be constantly monitored by designated personnel utilizing a system that can alert personnel when actions are required per this procedure. Many times, a phone or software application is utilized to conduct this monitoring.
- Ampirical does not require a specific phone or software application to be utilized, however, it is required that all employees, contractors, and subcontractors utilize the same application that are working on the same project. Ampirical will choose the application to be utilized if agreement among those onsite cannot be made. Accuracy of the system must be a top consideration when selecting the system to be utilized.
- The Emergency Action Plan (EAP) must be utilized in response to the possibility of inclement weather. Ampirical supervision will determine, based on weather conditions, if evacuation of the site is necessary.
- Consideration of staying sheltered/cabbed up in place versus traveling when road conditions are too dangerous must be a decision made by each individual based on available information from traffic alerts, news reports, and observation.
- If immediate danger exists to personnel, employees may make their own decision to evacuate, and this must be communicated to their supervision.
- If in a situation where the ability to escape from a storm is not possible, such as a tornado, retreat to a low-lying area, cover your head/neck with your arms, and stay away from trees and objects that can become airborne.

6 Emergency Response Training

6.1 Training and Planning

- All workers on site will be trained on the expectations and requirements of this Emergency Action Plan (EAP) as needed.
- Any revisions or updates to this EAP will require retraining for all workers and subcontractors.
- New employees will receive EAP training during site orientation.
- Site approved warning methods will be used to quickly notify all workers of imminent danger to the site.
- When anticipated severe weather is expected, the company will plan and prepare for emergency response requirements and expectations.

- Weather conditions will be checked each morning and periodically throughout the day using the
- An approved weather monitoring mobile application Supervisors will note:
 - Anticipated arrival time of weather
 - Severity of weather
 - Expected duration
 - All onsite employees will be notified of weather warnings.

7 Severe Weather Expectations

7.1 Planning and Preparation

- Upon notification of impending hail or sleet, all personnel must immediately proceed to the designated emergency muster location.
- Workers will shelter in equipment, vehicles, or an approved tool trailer as directed by the superintendent or foreman.

7.2 Specific Plan for High Winds

- Upon notification of impending high winds, all personnel must immediately proceed to the emergency rally point.
- Secure all loose materials that could be blown from the site or damaged.
- Shelter in equipment or vehicles as directed by the superintendent or foreman.
- Please see the Lightning & Wind Safety Clearance Charts for further planning

7.3 Specific Plan for Heavy Rain / Flooding

- Upon notification of impending heavy rain or flooding, all personnel must immediately go to the emergency muster point.
- Secure all loose materials that could be blown or damaged.
- Move equipment to the highest possible elevation to prevent water damage.
- Evacuate all trenches, ditches, and holes, as these areas are subject to flooding and flash flooding.
- Shelter in equipment, vehicles, or the tool trailer as directed by the superintendent or foreman.

7.4 Specific Plan for Freeze / Freezing Conditions

- Upon notification of impending freezing temperatures, snow, sleet, or ice, all personnel must immediately proceed to the emergency muster point unless otherwise directed by supervision.
- Suspend work activities that may be impacted by ice, reduced footing, or loss of dexterity, including aerial work, scaffolding, and work on elevated or exposed surfaces.
- Secure or protect materials, tools, and equipment susceptible to damage from freezing temperatures (e.g., water lines, hoses, pumps, fuel systems, and batteries). Drain, insulate, or otherwise protect water-containing systems and equipment to prevent freezing and rupture.

- Apply approved de-icing materials to walking/working surfaces as conditions allow and restrict access to areas that cannot be safely treated. Inspect access roads, walkways, ladders, platforms, and equipment for ice accumulation prior to use. Shelter in heated buildings, equipment, vehicles, or approved site trailers as directed by the superintendent or foreman.
- Monitor personnel for cold stress, frostbite, or hypothermia symptoms and allow warming breaks as necessary.
- Work may not resume until surfaces are free of ice, equipment has been verified safe for operation, and supervision authorizes a return to work.
- Following freezing weather events, personnel must await direction from site supervision before traveling to or returning to the site. Return-to-work decisions will consider road conditions, accessibility, and local advisories. Employees are not required to travel if conditions are unsafe.

8 Specific Plan for Lightning

8.1 Lightning Planning

- When lightning enters a 20-mile radius of the worksite, planning and preparation must begin in anticipation of a potential lightning alert.
- When lightning enters a 15-mile radius, all aerial work must cease immediately. Aerial operations may not resume until there has been a continuous 30-minute period with no lightning detected within 15 miles.
- When lightning enters a 10-mile radius, all work must stop immediately. No work may resume until there has been a continuous 30-minute period with no lightning detected within 10 miles.
- Work must be stopped early enough to allow personnel to safely reach a designated location for protection.
- If any subcontractor initiates Stop Work due to lightning or severe weather concerns, they must notify the Ampirical Construction Manager or Safety Manager.
- Ampirical will monitor weather conditions and provide all-clear notifications to subcontractor supervision and management. It is the responsibility of subcontractor management to communicate this information to their personnel without delay.
- Upon notification of lightning safety procedures, workers must immediately shut down machines and equipment and seek approved shelter.
- Workers must avoid water, high ground, metal buildings or awnings, pavilions, and tall trees during lightning events.
- If safe building structures are not available, Ampirical will direct contractors to seek shelter in hard-topped metal vehicles with windows rolled up.
- Personnel must remain inside the vehicle for at least 30 minutes after the last sound of thunder or until lightning has not been detected within 10 miles.
- Cell phones may be used safely during lightning events, but they must not be plugged into a charging outlet inside a vehicle.
- If signs of approaching thunderstorms are observed, workers must not begin any task that cannot be quickly stopped. Proper planning and safe work practices significantly increase lightning safety for outdoor operations.

8.2 Process While Pouring Concrete:

- Concrete pours must be scheduled to avoid known or forecasted thunderstorms. When feasible, pours should be planned during morning hours to reduce exposure to afternoon pop-up storms.
- If lightning enters a 10-mile radius during an active concrete pour, personnel shall follow the established severe weather protocols outlined in the Emergency Action Plan (EAP).
- When inclement weather may compromise concrete integrity, approval from upper-level supervision is required prior to initiating or continuing concrete pouring operations.
- No additional concrete pours may begin once lightning encroaches within a 10-mile radius.
- The Emergency Action Plan (EAP) shall be implemented any time inclement weather—including thunderstorms, lightning, strong winds, hail, or tornado activity—is approaching or impacting the work area.

9 Specific Plan for Tornado**9.1 Tornado Watch Response**

- When a Tornado Watch is issued for the area:
 - Supervision will notify crews that tornado conditions are possible and that personnel must be prepared to take protective action quickly and make orderly preparations.
 - Identify the nearest available hardened shelter options and the primary evacuation route(s) to those locations, if available.
 - If no hardened shelter is available on site, supervision will confirm a plan to evacuate all personnel offsite until conditions warrant a site return.
 - Identify high-risk activities that may need to be paused early (e.g., aerial work, crane operations, suspended loads, hot work, energized activities, and concrete pouring).
 - Supervision will ensure all workers understand how they will be notified if weather conditions escalate (verbal instruction, radio, Site approved warning methods, etc.).
 - Continue monitoring weather using an approved weather monitoring mobile application or NOAA alerts.

9.2 Tornado Warning Response

- When a Tornado Warning is issued for the worksite area:
 - Supervision will notify crews that a Tornado Warning is in effect and that personnel must take protective action.
 - Suspend work activities and place equipment in a safe state, as conditions allow.
 - If a hardened shelter location is identified and can be reached safely in time, direct personnel to relocate/evacuate to that location and remain there until the all-clear.

- If no hardened shelter is available on site, supervision will issue an immediate site-wide evacuation and direct all personnel to evacuate offsite, preferably away from the storm.
- Continue monitoring weather using an approved weather monitoring mobile application or NOAA alerts.
- Issue an all-clear and notify personnel when it is safe to return to the site.

9.3 Imminent Tornado Response

- If a tornado is sighted, a funnel cloud is observed, or conditions indicate an immediate threat, supervision will:
 - Supervision will verbally notify crews immediately (radio/phone/site approved warning device as applicable).
 - Direct personnel to take immediate protective action
 - If a hardened shelter location is identified and can be reached safely in time, direct personnel to relocate/evacuate to that location and remain there until the all-clear.
 - If there is not enough time to reach a hardened shelter, supervision will determine whether a site-wide evacuation is feasible and direct all personnel to evacuate the worksite, preferably away from the storm.
 - If evacuation is not possible due to the immediacy of the threat, issue last-resort instructions:
 - Take cover in the lowest area available (ditch/depression)
 - Stay away from vehicles, equipment, and downed powerlines
 - Protect the head/neck.
 - Accountability (roll call/headcount) will be performed as soon as practical once personnel are in a safer location, and any missing personnel will be reported immediately.
 - Continue monitoring weather using an approved weather monitoring mobile application or NOAA alerts.
 - Issue an all-clear and notify contractor supervision when it is safe for personnel to return to the site.

9.4 Weather Monitoring and Hazard Awareness

- Site personnel will remain alert for signs of developing severe weather, including:
 - Large, puffy cumulus (cotton-like) clouds
 - Darkening sky and cloud formations
 - Lightning flashes or abrupt changes in wind direction
 - Sudden drop in temperature or drop in atmospheric pressure

9.5 Weather monitoring will be conducted using:

- An approved weather monitoring mobile application
- Weather conditions must be constantly monitored by designated personnel utilizing a system that can alert personnel when actions are required per this procedure.

- If a system is unavailable, or not working, another way to determine the distance from lightning is by counting the number of seconds between the flash of lightning and the sound of thunder and then dividing by 5. This will give you the distance in miles to the lightning (Example: 15 seconds from flash to sound of thunder = 3 miles away).

10 Hurricane Preparedness Levels

10.1 Level 1 – Monitoring (120-72 hours prior)

- Begin tracking storm developments
- Review site-specific emergency plans
- Inventory and inspect securing materials (tie-downs, anchors, tarps)
- Verify emergency contact lists

10.2 Level 2 – Alert (72-48 hours prior)

- Secure loose materials and debris
- Begin equipment relocation plan
- Back up critical data and documentation
- Identify non-essential personnel for early release

10.3 Level 3 – Action (48-24 hours prior)

- Suspend non-essential operations
- Remove or secure:
 - Scaffolding (where feasible)
 - Temporary fencing
 - Portable offices (trailers)
 - Hazardous materials
- Relocate equipment to higher ground
- Fuel and stage emergency generators/pumps
- Ensure stormwater controls are stabilized

10.4 Level 4 – Shutdown (24 hours or less)

- Cease all construction activities
- Disconnect electrical systems (where required)
- Lock down site access points
- Confirm personnel evacuation and accountability
- Final site inspection by designated Ampirical Personnel

11 Hurricane Post-Storm Recovery

11.1 Initial Assessment

- Conduct hazard assessment before re-entry
- Identify:
 - Structural damage
 - Downed power lines
 - Flood hazards
 - Chemical spills

11.2 Re-Entry Requirements

- Only authorized personnel allowed
- PPE required (hard hats, boots, gloves, eye protection)
- Utilities must be verified safe before restart

11.3 Cleanup Operations

- Remove debris safely
- Inspect and test equipment before use
- Document all damages and incidents

12 Lightning & Wind Safety Clearance Charts

- All employees, contractors, subcontractors, and visitors must utilize the Lightning Safety Clearance Chart and Wind Safety Clearance Chart to take appropriate actions based off lightning and wind conditions present at their jobsite.
- Exceptions to these requirements are:
 - Work that must be completed to bring to a safe state
 - Responding to emergencies

Lightning Safety Clearance Chart	
All Clear	
Lightning Conditions	Required Actions
No lightning detected within 20 miles in the last 30 minutes	1. Continue with normal work 2. Continuously monitor weather
Level 2 - Caution	
Lightning Conditions	Required Actions
Lightning detected within 20 miles in the last 30 minutes	1. Inform crew of lightning approaching 2. Determine a plan/timeline to prepare the site, material, and equipment for work stoppage
Level 3 – Warning	
Lightning Conditions	Required Actions
Lightning detected within 15 miles in the last 30 minutes	1. Discontinue all exposed and elevated work, including work from lifts, buckets, and scaffolds
Level 4 - Danger	
Lightning Conditions	Required Actions
Lightning detected within 10 miles in the last 30 minutes	1. Stop all exposed work 2. Stage all equipment/material in a safe state 3. Seek shelter in the nearest enclosed building or enclosed vehicle

Wind Safety Clearance Chart	
All Clear	
Wind Conditions	Required Actions
0-19 mph sustained winds	1. Continue with normal work 2. Continuously monitor weather
Level 2 - Caution	
Wind Conditions	Required Actions
20-29 mph sustained winds	1. De-rate cranes and follow manufacturer's recommendation on use 2. Secure all objects with the potential to become airborne
Level 3 - Warning	
Wind Conditions	Required Actions
30-39 mph sustained winds	1. Stop all work that includes • Crane activities • Aerial work platforms and mobile scaffolds (includes aerial lifts, buckets, and scissor lifts) • Exposed, elevated work requiring fall protection • Work on scaffolding
Level 4 - Danger	
Wind Conditions	Required Actions
40+ mph sustained winds	1. Stop work for all outdoor activities 2. Keep employees off of roadways until conditions clear